



File Code: 2210
Date: May 24, 2010

F.M. Fulstone

Dear: Richard

The following letter will document the meeting held with the Little Walker permittees on May 5th, 2010 at Coleville High School. The following individuals were present at the meeting:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Permitted Numbers</u>
Bruce Fournier	Bently Agrowdynamics Inc.	206
Shawn Schacht	F.M. Fulstone Inc.	47
Leslie Chichester	Leslie Chichester	43
Dwain Chichester	Chichester, et.al.	152
Mary Hussman	Suellen Fulstone & Mary Fulstone Hussman	43
	Doris Holmes Trust	37
Chance Gee	Association Rider	
Ingrid Drieling	U.S. Forest Service	
Rixey Jenkins	U.S. Forest Service	

AUTHORIZED USE:

The Little Walker C&H allotment will be grazed from June 23rd- September 22nd in a simple rotation system. Use will begin with the Wheeler & Stockade units and with Lower Molybdenite, Deep Wash, Willow Flat and Rickey, followed by New Range and Long Valley, hitting the Sawmill unit on your way out. Cowcamp unit will be used when cattle are taken to the allotment at the beginning of the season and at the end of the season prior to shipping. Upper Molybdenite may be used for the 2010 grazing season.

Each permittee represented, indicated that full permitted numbers would be stocked on the allotment this year, and if there were changes, Les would have a set of numbers to be given to the Forest Service.

Up to three days may be taken to move cattle between units as long as allowable use standards are not exceeded. Cattle are not to be allowed to return to units previously grazed unless authorized in the schedule of use.



Leslie Chichester will serve as association President and will be the primary contact between the permittees and Forest Service. Chance Gee range rider will be the secondary "on the ground" contact.

<u>UNIT (NAME/NUMBER)</u>	<u>USE PERIOD</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Cowcamp/5	Early, as cattle enter allotment	528
Wheeler/2b	First, until allowable use is reached	528
Stockade/2a		
Lower Molybdenite/ Deep Wash Creek(3)	Second, until allowable use is reached	528
Willow Flat, Rickey, and Long Valley/1	Third, until allowable use is reached	528
New Range	Fourth, until allowable use is reached	528
Sawmill	On your way down to gather	
Cowcamp/5	Last, for gather and removal	528

Upper Molybdenite/4 can be used until allowable use is reached in 2010.

The planned entry date may be modified based on range readiness. The date may be moved back as much as ten days to accommodate permittees needs; however every permittee will have the same on and off dates. Les Chichester will be contact with Rixey if any dates are to change.

ALLOWABLE USE:

Allowable use standards for the Little Walker allotment are contained in your term grazing permit and listed below. Allowable use is measured on the current annual growth of key species, or the amount of regrowth to date at the time use is measured. It is the responsibility of each permittee to ensure that the allowable use standards are not exceeded and that cattle are moved to the next unit scheduled for use or off the allotment after the last unit has been used. If you need assistance in estimating utilization levels at any time, please contact Ingrid and she will help you.

Riparian sites:

Disturbance of meadow-associated streambanks and natural lake and pond shorelines is not to exceed **20 percent** of the stream reach or **20 percent** of the natural lake or pond shoreline.

In meadows that are in early seral status (an early stage of succession in a plant community or vegetation type, generally characterized by plant species that are adapted to colonizing disturbed areas with a high

proportion of bare soil) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to **30 percent (or minimum six-inch stubble height)**.

In meadows that are in late seral status (fifty percent or more of the relative cover of the herbaceous layer is late seral with high similarity to the potential natural community, a diversity of age classes of hardwood shrubs is present, and regeneration is occurring) livestock utilization of grass and grass-like plants must be limited to a maximum of **40 percent (or minimum four-inch stubble height)**.

In meadows that are **degraded** (such as those in early seral status with a greater than **ten percent** meadow area in **bare soil and active erosion**) **total rest** from grazing is required until they have recovered and have moved to a mid or late seral status.

In riparian areas browsing on mature riparian shrubs (including willow and aspen) is not to exceed **20 percent** of the annual leader growth and is not to exceed more than **20 percent** of individual seedlings.

Under intensive grazing systems, such as Little Walker C&H, where meadows are receiving a period of rest, utilization levels can be higher than the levels described above if the meadow is maintained in late seral status and meadow associated species are not being impacted. This standard would keep the utilization level at 50% use of key herbaceous species.

Livestock grazing will be modified or suspended on meadow ecosystems when it is determined that ecological status is moving in a downward trend.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Key Species</u>	<u>Maximum Use</u>
1 & 2	Bitterbrush	30%
	All other species	50%
2	All key species	50%
3, 4 & 5	All key species	50%

Key Species list:

Uplands: bitterbrush, western needlegrass, California needlegrass, Nevada needlegrass, and mutton bluegrass

Aspen stands: regenerating aspen and forbs

Seedings: smooth brome and crested wheatgrass

Because we do not know the ecological condition of every meadow located within the allotment, please err on the side of caution when monitoring utilization on riparian species.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS:

All range improvements assigned to permittees must be maintained before livestock enter the allotment. In the event a permittee does not fulfill their maintenance responsibilities, the Association will be responsible for maintenance before livestock enter the allotment. However, should an improvement go unmaintained by a permittee, permit action will only be taken against the responsible permittee. The maintenance standards for improvements listed in your term permits must be followed when maintaining improvements. If any of the improvements assigned to you are not accessible prior to the planned on-date, please notify the association president or Rixey. Since there is a need for the Forest Service to complete a Categorical Exclusion before the maintenance on two of your pipelines, these pipelines need to be maintained to the best of your ability until the CE to replace the pipelines is completed. At this time there is no estimated date of completion for this CE.

Discussed need for heavy maintenance and let down fencing. It was decided that the permittees would prioritize where is needed the most and then let Ingrid know.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT:

Only cattle with the following Brands will be allowed on the allotment.

- Box Reverse C on the LH
- Lazy letter H, vertical quarter circle on the LH
- Open A offset V on the LH or LR
- Small d small b on the LH
- Lazy letter J Lazy letter H combined on the RS
- Reverse FMF combined on the LH
- Combined reverse E letter F on the LH

Place salt at least $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from water, meadows, roads, and trails to encourage even distribution of use by cattle. If terrain does not allow for proper placement of salt,

contact Ingrid and she will work with you to determine a suitable location. Herd cattle into areas lightly used to avoid over using portions of the range.

All garbage associated with managing the Little Walker allotment must be removed from National Forest System lands. Haul dead cattle at least 100 yards away from water sources, roads, and trails.

Forms have been included with this plan to report improvement maintenance costs and actual use. Please complete these forms and return them to my office by November 15, 2010. Each permittee will be responsible for reporting their actual use and improvement maintenance accomplishments this year.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock is concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments, and salting areas. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on our Forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds. All livestock entering the National Forest are recommended to be fed **Certified Noxious Weed Free Forage** for at least 2 days prior to entering the Forest.

The corral at Cowcamp is a disturbed area susceptible to the establishment of invasive weeds. Please assist us by monitoring this site to detect any weeds that may occur before they can spread to the rest of the allotment. In the past several permittees acknowledged that weeds of various species occur on their ranches. The possibility of these weeds being transported to the Little Walker allotment is high.

The 2010 Grazing fee is \$1.35 the same as last year.

Payment of your grazing bill is due five days prior to your earliest turnout date to allow time for processing. As a reminder the Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay you grazing fees. The Forest Service is requesting that permittees schedule their AOI meeting a minimum of 35 days prior to their earliest on date to provide adequate time to plan for the upcoming grazing season.

As a reminder, approval of requests for permittee convenience nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Approval of a request for permittee convenience non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

If you or your rider spots a wildfire on the National Forest, please report it immediately to the Interagency Dispatch Center in Minden, NV at **(775) 883-5995**.

Other:

Bridgeport Travel Management Record of Decision was signed March 5th, 2010. With the issuance of this decision all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use will be identified on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation (e.g., term grazing permit). Through the 2010 grazing season you and your employees are authorized to travel on routes within the allotments in your permit to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit (e.g., improvement maintenance, dead livestock removal).

California Department of Fish and Game acquired some private land parcels within the Little Walker C&H allotment for Mule Deer and Sage Grouse habitat. We have given your contact information to Tim Taylor of CDF&G who may possibly be in contact with you.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions or any aspect of grazing on the National Forest, please call Rixey Jenkins at (760)932-5850.

Sincerely,

Barbara Drake
Acting District Ranger

cc: Doris Holmes Trust
Suellen Fulstone and Mary Fulstone Hussman
Chichester et, al.
Bently Agrowdynamics Inc.
Leslie Chichester

encl: report forms